he is MLA of a particular constituency. They say MLA of a particular constituency. That means he is charging that MLA. I think it is not fair.

Need for C.B.I. Probe into the cases of police repression in Punjab

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): May, I with your permission, refer to a disturbing and sinister development in Punjab. That State is going through a nightmare of violence of more than a decade. There have been various kinds of violence committed on the State and on the people. There is terrorism practised by the militants. Maybe they are political militants or non-political militants. There is also a parallel terrorism practised by the State and its law and order machinery. As a result of this victims of this violence, who are sometimes innocent citizens, suffer. I am not objecting to dealing with militants and militant violence, but what is happening in Punjab to innocent people is not being looked into seriously by the Government, either at the State level or at the Central level. Many innocents have died as a result of violence at the hands of the militants and at the hands of the police and the security forces. I refer in particular to the victims who have suffered at the hands of the police and the security forces. Sir, the House is aware that in Punjab we are using extraordinary powers to eliminate militancy, to eliminate the killings, the tortures, harassments, lootings arson and so on indulged in by the militants. The State Government is using the police as well as the security forces to find out about these militants. There have been a number of instances where there has been a repression of innocent people--men, women and children by the police and the securty forces. I have got a few instances which show that nobody knows what has happened to these people. One Mr. Gurinder Singh of Bhatinda was taken into custody about a month back. Nothing is known about his whereabouts. Then there is another Major Singh of Mehana village. He was taken into custody along with his cousin. Major Singh died during interrogation while his cousin was stated to have been killed in an encounter. There is one Mr. Buta Singh. He was involved in the killing of a Panchayat member. That was the charge. His whereabouts are not known. There are several instances like that. Therefore innocents are dying are being tortured, at the hands of the police and at the hands of the security forces. They are creating counter-terrorism in the State. There is terrorism by the militants and there is also State terrorism by the police and the security forces. So I think a time has has come for the House to take note of these developments, very sinster developments, very disturbing developments. I think there should be a CBI enquiry into such cases. Till now no enquiry has been held in Punjab about the conditions of these people who have been tortured, harassed and killed at the hands of the police and the State authorities. Therefore, I reiterate my request, my demand that there should be a CBI enquiry.

Sir, there has been a systematic violation of democratic rights. There is no scope in Punjab today for any democratic movement. All the democratic rights, trade union rights and freedom have been suppressed. An atmosphere of terror and fear has been let loose and a time has come ot look into this aspect as well. So far no political initiative has been taken by anybody to solve the main issue of Punjab. It seems the whole nation has become a helpless witness to what is going on in Punjab. Nothing moves us now. In the past I remember, Sir, when a violent incident took place in any part of Punjab, the whole House used to react sharply. But now every day killings are going on. A large number of cases of robbery, decoity and kidnappings are going on... Still, we do not take notice of them. We have become insensitive. We have become insensitive because it has become a daily occurrence. we have lost our initiative Therefore, the time has also come when a political initiative should be taken by the Government of India, not by anybody else.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): The Government is listening. The Government is here.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I plead for a political initiative. The basis for that political initiative could be the

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal accord and the Sarkaria Commission report. These documents can be made the basis. On that basis, a political initiative can be started. Today, the whole situation is frozen, frozen to death. Therefore, I call for a political initiative. Incidentally, may I ask the Government to come out with a white paper on Punjab? Let us know what is what in Punjab.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Chidambaram, he is asking you for a white paper. You need not waste your time with Mr. Virumbi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): He is continuing his special mention.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am pleading for a white paper by the Government of India on Punjab. It is high time it was done.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR:): You began with the CBI and are ending with a white paper.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Because, without political initiative, without a political settlement, this nightmare of violence will continue in Punjab for a long-long time to come. Innocent people, men, women and children, will suffer. Therefore, a white paper is necessary. A political initiative has got to come from the Government of India and they should start discussions with all elements in Punjab. Let them not take shelter under the Plea that the Akalis are not united, the Sikhs are not united, and therefore with whom they have to talk. It is not necessary. The Government of India can act **suo motu** now. There is a basis for it. Therefore, I reiterate and say that they should come out with a white paper and try to solve the issue of Punjab and the tragedy that is going on being enacted in Punjab day to day should stop immediately.

Conversion-cum-Construction of Broad Gauge Railway line from Hospet to Ankola in Karnataka

SHRI J. P. JAVALI (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through you and through this House, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India to a matter of vital importance to Karnataka. The matter is the conversion-cum-construction of a B.G. Railway line from Hospet to Ankola, an urgent need of Karnataka. This B.G. network is a vital link.

Karnataka, compared to its adjoining States, has the lowest length of B.G. railway network. In spite of persistent demands and in spite of producing six Union Ministers of Cabinet rank of Railways from the State, Karnataka has been languishing with neglect. The demands for conversion from M.G. to B.G. from Hospet of Hubli and the construction of a new line from Hubli to Karwar are more than one hundred years old.

Now that the construction of the Konkan Railway line is in progress and the Vijayanagar Steel Plant along with a thermal power plant at Torangal is a certainty, linking Hospet wth Ankola has become a matter of urgent necessity. The proposal is not only viable but will be very profitable for the Railways.

At present, the Hospet-Bellary sector exports about six million tonnes of iron ore through the Madras Port. The distance traversed is about 555 kilometres. From Madras the unloaded wagons return empty. This transaction has resulted in a loss of Rs. 83.81 crores to the Railways in the last three years from 1988 to 1991. On persistent demands, the updated survey of 1989 for conversion of Hospet-Hubli line to BG line a distance of 114 kms, estimated the cost at Rs. 113 crores. It states, the project was financially unremunerative. The survey, it appears, has not taken into consideration the following traffic generating potentialities. (i) Vijayanagar Steel Plant (ii) Thermal Power Pant, (iii) Konkan Railway Project, (iv) Access to the ports on the western coast, (v) Perennial losses incurred in carrying ore only through Madras, (vi) Sea Bird Naval Dock